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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AMENDMENT

Applicant: Judith K. Laffoon)
Serial No.: 10/642,780) Date: June 9, 2004
Filed: August 18, 2003) Group Art Unit: 3644
For: ANIMAL CARE GARMENT) Examiner: Susan C. Alimenti

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 9, 2004, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

Please charge the \$210.00 fee for extension of time to respond within two months (small entity) to deposit account number 502790.

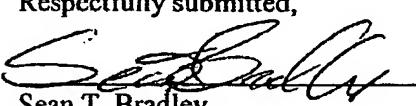
the sides of the garment to capture food, waste or other debris falling from or ejected from the shoulder area.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 5 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Schiesel in view of Schellenbach, and in further view of Garay et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,315,957. Claims 5, 8 and 9 are dependent claims and are allowable as depending from independent claims 4 and 7. In combination, Schiesel, Schellenbach and Garay et al. do not disclose or teach a pad formed of fabric-covered rope attached along the shoulder line of an animal care garment without resorting to the present application for the suggestion to combine.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments contained herein and the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4 through 21 are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance.

In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application can be advanced thereby, she is invited and encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
By 
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